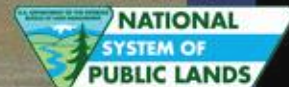


BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

WESTERN REGION

Scoping Meetings
January – February 2012



Greater Sage-Grouse

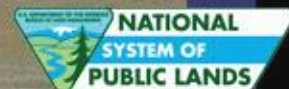
ESA Listing Status

- January 2005 - FWS issued 12-month “not warranted” finding
- December 2007 – District Court remanded FWS decision
- March 2010 – FWS Issued “warranted but precluded” finding making the greater sage-grouse a “candidate” for listing
- FY 2015 – Greater Sage-Grouse final listing decision



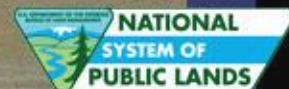
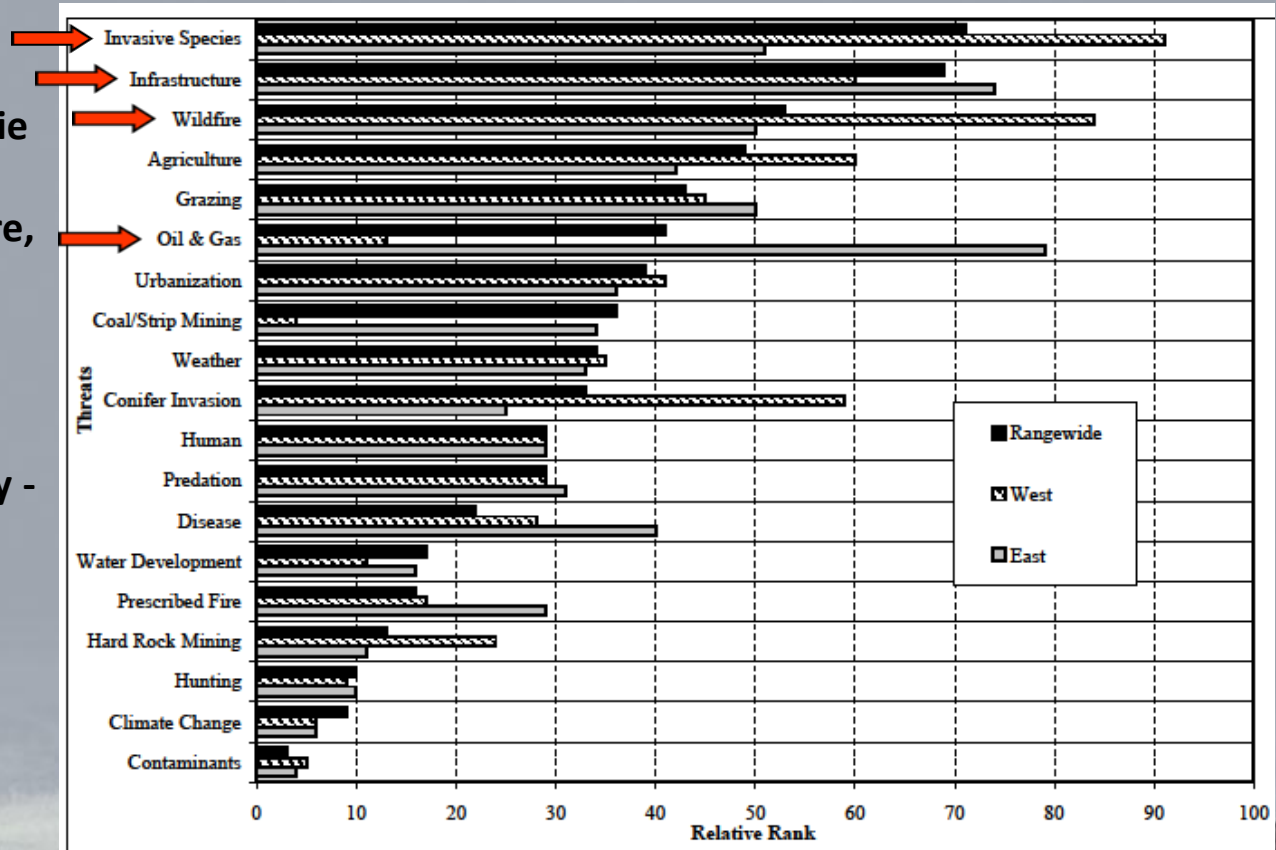
FWS Identified Factors BLM Could Address

- Inadequate regulatory mechanisms for BLM identified as a major factor in "warranted but precluded" finding. Similar concerns were identified for the FS as well.
- Principal regulatory mechanism is conservation measures in:
 - BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs)
 - FS Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs)
 - Collectively we call these Land Use Plans (LUPs)
- Consistent application of conservation measures across the range



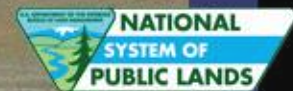
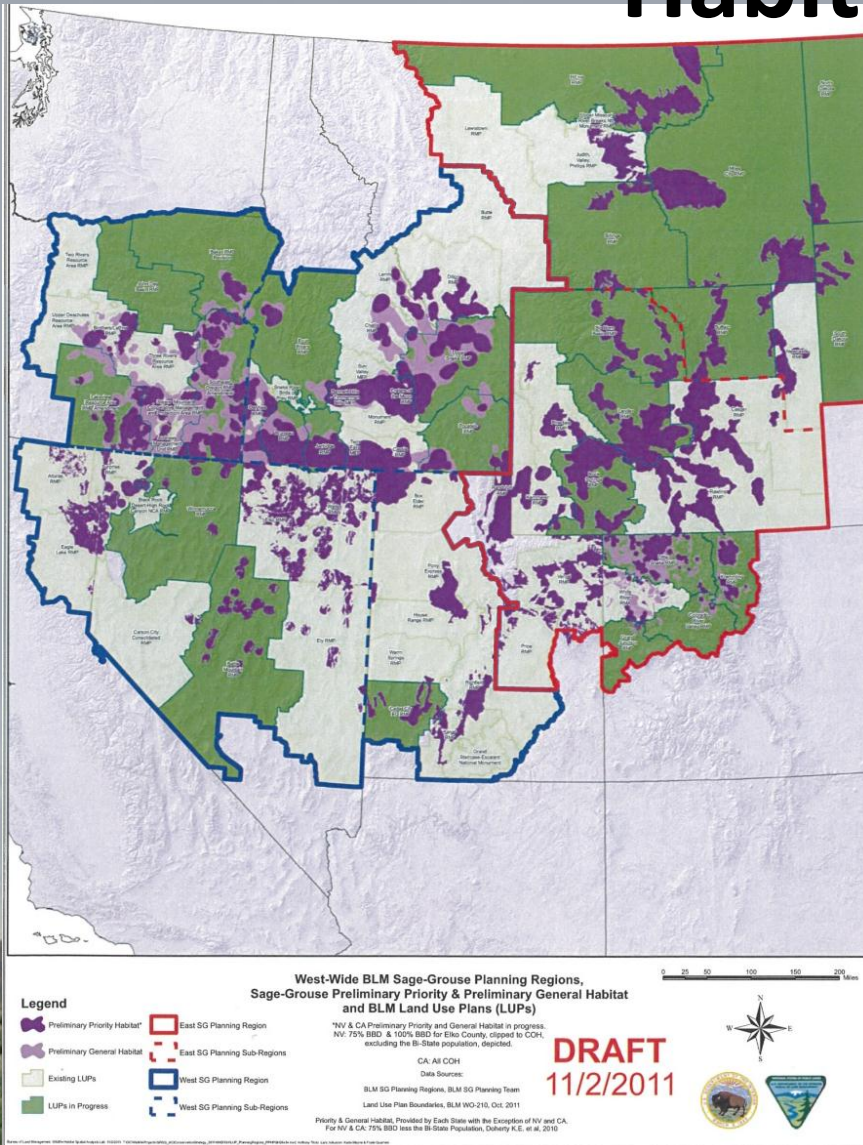
FWS Identified Threats to Greater Sage-Grouse

- FWS considers the main threat to be a tie between invasive species, infrastructure, wildfire, and energy development
- Oil and gas includes other types of energy - wind, uranium, and geothermal
- Threats vary across the range



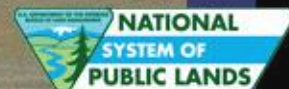
Preliminary Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Map

- Being developed collaboratively with state wildlife agencies
- Still some areas where the maps are not complete



Extent of Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat

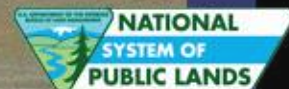
- There is a total of approximately 100 million acres of greater sage-grouse habitat.
- Located across 11 states (CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, ND, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY).
- Approximately 50% on BLM surface managed lands. Less than 8% on National Forest System lands.
- Affects 68 BLM planning units of which 28 plans are currently under revision, and 9 Forest Service LUPs.



BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

BLM comprehensive strategy to address greater sage-grouse conservation prior to the FY 2015 final listing decision

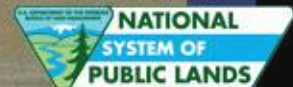
- BLM is lead federal agency; FS is cooperating agency
- The FWS, FS, and state wildlife agencies are members of every level of the strategy.
- Other state and federal agencies (e.g. NRCS) are members as appropriate.
- Strategy announced at Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in July 2011.



BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

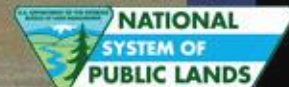
Develop and implement new or revised regulatory mechanisms through land use planning and appropriate policy, in order to:

- Conserve and restore greater sage-grouse and their habitats on BLM administered lands on a range-wide basis over the long term, and
- Ensure conservation measures are carried forward into future planning efforts on BLM land



Planning Approach

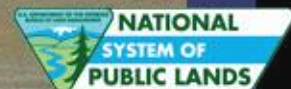
- Issue national policy and direction to guide interim actions and future planning
- Establish highly coordinated, multi-level, interagency teams that respond to clear national direction
- Incorporate regulatory mechanisms into LUPs at the sub-regional (state/multi-state) level



Governance Structure (Teams) for National Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy

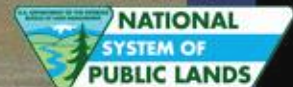
Charter established the following teams to accomplish the strategy:

- National Policy Team (NPT)
- National Technical Team (NTT)
- Regional Management Teams (RMTs), East and West Regions
- Regional Interdisciplinary Teams (RIDTs), East and West Regions *Note: FS will have a separate regional IDT*
- Sub-regional (State/multistate) Interdisciplinary Teams (SIDTs)



Regional Teams



- There are two Regional Teams:
 - East – Rocky Mountains/Great Plains (RMGP)
 - West – Great Basin/Columbia Plateau (GBCP)
- Each team will respond to clear national policy while looking at different ecological attributes and threats that are region-specific






A photograph showing a wide, open landscape. The foreground is filled with dense, low-lying vegetation, likely grass or small shrubs, in shades of green and brown. In the background, a large, rounded hill or mountain rises against a pale, overcast sky. The overall scene suggests a natural, possibly protected, area.



0 50 100 150 200 Articles

 Completed LUPs
  East

 LUPs Currently Under Revision
  West

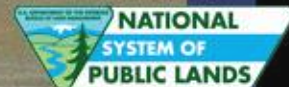
 Existing LUPs

Data Sources:
Land Use Plan Boundaries, BLM WO-210



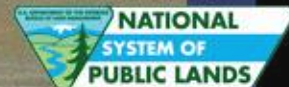
Sub-Regional EISs

- Sub-regions in the Western Region:
 - Utah
 - Oregon
 - Nevada and Northeastern California
 - Idaho and Southwestern Montana
- Each sub-region will have its own EIS
- Each EIS will amend the LUPs in that sub-region



Public Scoping Meetings

- A Notice of Intent (NOI) to revise or amend land use plans was published on 12/09/2011.
- Under this strategy with the BLM, the FS will address specific forests identified as high priority in the FWS findings. The affected forest plans were included in the NOI.
- Information for January, 2012 Public Scoping Meetings was also included.



Submit Comments

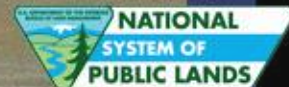
Submit comments by February 16th 2012

E-mail: sagewest@blm.gov

Fax: 775-861-6747

US Mail:

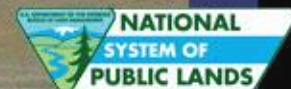
Western Region Project Manager
BLM Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd.
Reno, NV 89502



Timeline of Critical Steps

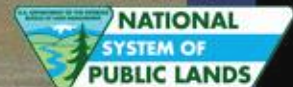
| Action | When |
|--|-------------------|
| Establish all teams (NPT, NTT, RMTs, RIDTs, and SIDTs) | Complete |
| Issue national interim policy (Instruction Memorandum) | December 27, 2011 |
| Publish Notice of Intent to amend land use plans | December 9, 2011 |
| Public scoping complete | February 16, 2012 |
| Draft EISs published | January 2013 |
| Final EISs published | November 2013 |
| Records of Decision signed | May 2014 |

* All dates are subject to change.



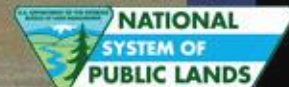
BLM Interim Management Guidance

- A national Instruction Memorandum (IM) was issued December 22, 2011.
- The intent of the guidance is to conserve greater sage-grouse until LUP decisions are made.



IM Coordination

- Sent to State wildlife agency, FWS, and BLM for review on 9/13/2011 and again on 11/23/2011 (included formal governor review).
- Secretary Salazar met with Western Governors on 12/09/2011 in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

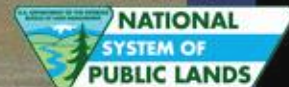


Sage Grouse National Technical Team:

A Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures

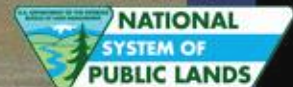
(December 27, 2011)

- Team of scientist from federal and state agencies
- Identifies conservation measures necessary to promote sustainable sage-grouse populations
- Conservation measures focused on primary threats, including recreation, transportation systems, development (realty actions), range management, fluid and solid minerals extraction, fire, and habitat restoration
- Serves as a starting point for this planning process



Conclusion

- This is the first step in a complex strategy where state agency involvement is important, as well as involvement of Tribal and local governments. We look forward to collaborating throughout this process.



Get Involved

- **Get on the mailing list** by sending a request to SageWest@blm.gov
- **Ask questions** at SageQuery@blm.gov
- **Visit the National Strategy Web site**
www.blm.gov/sagegrouse
- **Visit the Western Region's strategy Web site**
www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html

